

The end of the Vietnam War and the Draft

AN ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE

Here are some excerpts of how this was reported locally in 1973 issues of the San Angelo Standard Times...

Thanks to Angelo State University for these researched articles.

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War Powers Bill Is Gaining Support

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Vietnam peace agreement has given new vigor to the drive in Congress to limit the war-making power of the President.

Nine more senators have joined in co-sponsoring a war powers bill introduced by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., on Jan. 18, bringing total backing to 60.

The Senate passed a similar bill 68 to 16 last April 13, but House response was lukewarm. Senate sponsors predict that the measure will pick up support this year from additional House Republicans who last year feared that it would be construed as an affront to President Nixon's Vietnam war policies.

The bill is designed to restore to Congress its sole constitutional power to declare war.

It would allow the President to commit U.S. armed forces to hostilities abroad only in emergency situations, and then only for 30 days, without specific approval of Congress.

Standard Times Feb 6, 1973

Laird Ends Military Draft

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced Saturday that "use of the draft has ended."

His action, placing the nation's armed forces on an all-volunteer footing for the first time in nearly 25 years, came five months ahead of President Nixon's goal.

In a message to senior defense officials, Laird said: "With the signing of the peace agreement in Paris today, and after receiving a report from the secretary of the Army that he foresees no need for further inductions, I wish to inform you that the armed forces henceforth will depend exclusively on volunteer soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines."

Laird's decision cancels plans to draft about 5,000 men before next June 30, when legal authority to induct young men into the armed forces will expire.

Pentagon manpower officials said that the flow of volunteers, spurred by a series of military pay raises and improved fringe benefits, has encouraged them to believe these 5,000 men can be raised by recruiting.

Laird also issued a strong appeal for congressional approval of new bonuses and other legislation designed to make military service more attractive, particularly to National Guardsmen and reservists.

The Nixon administration has set a policy that, in any future war emergency, roughly one-million National Guardsmen and reservists will be called before the country turns to the draft for the necessary military manpower.

Defense officials said there still is a possibility that a few doctors might be drafted. The Pentagon is pressing for passage of a bill that would give doctors extra pay, in hopes of attracting more medical professionals to a military career.

The special doctor draft has not been used since 1971, when the Pentagon asked for 1,600 physicians and osteopaths.

There are skeptics in the military services, and among some civilians, that the Pentagon can maintain an adequate military force entirely with volunteers, in the absence of the draft at least as a prod for recruitment.

The last time the nation attempted to get along without the draft was in the 1947-48 period, but President Harry S. Truman was forced to ask Congress to renew draft authority when the services, although sharply cut back after World War II, could not raise enough volunteers.

Secretary 'Delighted'

"I'm delighted," said Nell Royall when told of the decision to end the draft five months early.

Mrs. Royall, executive secretary of Selective Service Board 118 of San Angelo, said that they were already slowing down for the June 30 end of the draft. Boards are to be co-located (consolidated) and the proposed West Texas locations are to be San Angelo, El Paso and Midland.

When asked about the new status of the draft, she replied that a pool of men probably will be kept examined, tested and ready in case of national emergency. "I doubt if the lottery number for those on call will go over 30 if that," she went on. "That would mean probably less than 30 men from the San Angelo area."

She said of the future, the way the draft is streamlined now with the elimination of deferments that in case of emergency the draft would be faster and more effective than ever.

Standard Times Jan 28 1973

Leftovers From Draft Canceled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Selective Service notified draft boards Tuesday to cancel induction orders for men who were left over from last year's draft pool and have induction postponements due to expire this month or next.

Standard Times Jan 3 1973

Troop Withdrawal Begins Speedup

SAIGON (AP) — The United States sped withdrawal of its remaining 23,000 troops under a day-old cease-fire already shattered by widespread fighting. The Saigon command accused the Communist side of 373 truce violations between noon Sunday and 6 a.m. today.

A South Vietnamese communique said most of the significant action centered in the northern quarter of South Vietnam, but the biggest battle was in the central highlands, along Highway 14 about 16 miles south of Pleiku.

Government militia forces spearheaded by armored units nouncement of the cease-fire. The U.S. Command said four Americans died and four were listed as missing during the same period. The cease-fire did not officially begin until 8 a.m. Sunday — 6 p.m. Saturday CST. A land grab preceded the truce and continued beyond the designated time for a halt in the fighting.

As the fighting for political control flared in scores of hamlets, members of the International Commission of Control and Supervision and Vietnamese Communist delegates to the peace agreement's Joint Military Commission converged on Saigon to set up machinery designed to strengthen the fragile

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Standard Times Jan 29, 1973



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



The Army launched a new marketing campaign Wednesday, March 8, 2023, built around the old slogan, "Be All You Can Be," which was used in Army advertising from about 1981 to 2001. As part of the rebranding, Army marketers redesigned the service's star logo to appear clearer online. (U.S. Army)

It is the mindset of a Marine that ensures our Nation that we will be ready to win every battle when it needs us most.

The Marine Corps mission reflects every Marine's purpose. In essence, our Nation is that purpose. In our world, in ourselves, and in our way, there are conflicts, challenges, and obstacles that must be fought confidently and defeated convincingly for our Nation to prevail. These looming battles come in many forms and occur on many fronts, but each comes down to a critical choice: to demand victory or accept defeat. To pull together or fall apart. To give in or cave in. It is a decision each Marine conveys to our Nation with each battle won.



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BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

U.S. ARMY

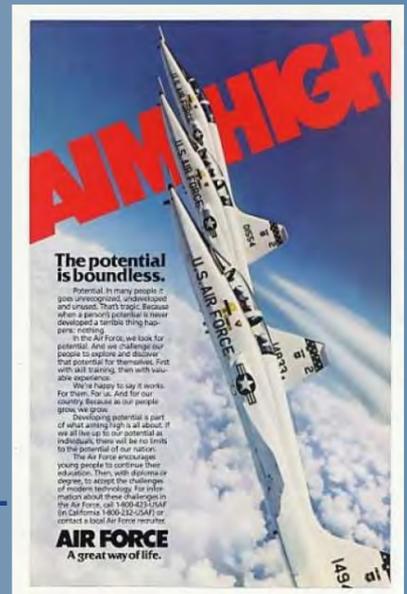
GOARMY.COM



AMERICA'S NAVY

FORGED BY THE SEA

MISSION
To recruit, train, and organize to deliver combat Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence.



The Air Force Symbol is the official symbol of the United States Air Force. It honors the heritage of our past and represents the promise of our future. The U.S. Air Force signature consists of the Air Force Symbol and the logotype (U.S. Air Force).

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win - airpower anytime, anywhere. Whether full time, part time, in or out of uniform, everyone who serves plays a critical role in helping us achieve mission success.



U.S. SPACE COMMAND

The Symbol

First used in 1961, the Delta symbol honors the heritage of the USAF and Space Command

The silver outer border of the delta signifies defense and protection from all adversaries and threats emanating from the space domain. The black area inside embodies the vast darkness of deep space.

Inside the delta, the two spires represent the action of a rocket launching into the outer atmosphere in support of the central role of the Space Force in defending the space domain.

The four beveled elements symbolize the joint armed forces supporting the space mission: Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines.

In the center of the delta is the star Pólaris, which symbolizes how the core values guide the Space Force mission.

SEMPER SUPRA "ALWAYS ABOVE"

UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE

U.S. Space Command, working with Allies and Partners, plans, executes, and integrates military spacepower into multi-domain global operations in order to deter aggression, defend national interests, and when necessary, defeat threats.



United States Coast Guard

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Since 1790, the Coast Guard has safeguarded the American people and promoted national security, border security, and economic prosperity in a complex and evolving maritime environment. The Coast Guard saves those in peril and protects the Nation from all maritime threats.

The end of the Vietnam War and the Draft

AN ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE

What are the newspapers saying today?

In defense of the all-volunteer force

By Dana T. Atkins

Feb 4, 2021 Military Times



Future sailors, soldiers and airmen take the oath of enlistment at the Military Entrance Processing Station Fort Dix on June 13, 2020, in Lakehurst, N.J. (MC1 Diana Quinlan/Navy)

The all-volunteer force remains a successful reform born out of the Vietnam era. Evidence of this success is noteworthy this year for many reasons. The anniversary of Desert Storm certainly brings back the historical significance of what the all-volunteer force can accomplish, and the subsequent deterrence to a conventional conflict it has offered our nation. This past year also demonstrated the resilience of our total force, with the largest National Guard mobilization during social unrest, and provided pandemic support across our nation. This high-performing force has grown stronger because of its volunteers.

With these accomplishments, it comes as a surprise there are still proponents who want to go back to the draft to spread service across the nation in a more egalitarian manner. A recent commentary from retired Army Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich, "A nation of draft dodgers," warrants a review of the incredible reforms the all-volunteer force brought to our nation. The heart of the draft argument is that the all-volunteer force is not fair, efficient, or sustainable. At the core of the problem is a diminishing pool of individuals who are qualified and willing to serve. Compared to the legacy force, the all-volunteer force has significantly raised the standards on physical, mental, and conduct qualifications. The days of a judge offering the choice between jail or military service are, thankfully, long gone.

All-Volunteer Force at 50

"We have satisfied ourselves that a volunteer force will not jeopardize national security, and we believe it will have a beneficial effect on the military as well as the rest of our society."

Thomas S. Gates;
Chairman of the President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Forces
February 20, 1970 (Excerpts)

As the nation approaches the 50th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) on July 1, 2023, the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) is assembling a bipartisan task force examining the mechanics of AVF personnel management, identifying areas for evolution, and developing a modernized AVF roadmap for the next 50 years.



The task Force will convene over the course of six months, focusing on elements affecting the strength of the AVF. Findings and recommendations from the discussions will be distilled into a public report to be published on July 1, 2023.

Center for a New American Security
CNAS.org



50 YEARS OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE (EXCERPTS)

COL. JEFF PETERSON (USMC, RET.) WITH DON BOROUGHS / FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023

CENTER FOR NAVAL ANALYSIS (CNA)

Fifty years ago this month, President Richard Nixon signed into law the bill that would be the death knell of the draft. On this anniversary, we would be well served to consider the transformation made possible by the all-volunteer military: the professionalization of the enlisted force.

The questions are not all answered, nor the challenges all addressed. Great power competition makes new demands on troops, and a long period of low unemployment — interrupted by the pandemic — has been luring potential enlistees to civilian careers. But the fundamental question of whether a professional, all-volunteer force can deliver has been settled. If leaders continue to ask the right questions and respond with proper support, the enlisted men and women of the U.S. armed forces will prove that these first 50 years were only a prelude to greater days ahead.